# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4995
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2008
EXPORT GROWTH CENTRES
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**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has identified export growth centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the locations and their working alongwith the sectors identified for exports;

(c) whether the Government is considering to give financial assistance to cater to the needs of small scale exporters;

(d) if so, whether any consultative mechanism for interface between banks and SSI's is being envisaged; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Department of Commerce has not identified any export growth centres. However, under the Foreign Trade Policy, which encourages exports from all over India, Towns of Export Excellence are notified. The selected towns producing goods of Rs. 1000 Cr or more will be notified as Towns of Export Excellence on the basis of potential for growth in exports, while for Towns of Export Excellence in Handloom, Handicraft, Agriculture and Fisheries sector, the threshold limit would be Rs 250 Cr. Common service providers in the Towns of Export Excellence are entitled for the facility of the EPCG scheme. The recognized associations of units in the Towns of Export Excellence are able to access the funds under the Market Access Initiative scheme for creating focused technological services. Further such areas will receive priority for assistance for rectifying identified critical infrastructure gaps from the ASIDE scheme.A list of Towns of Export Excellence is Annexed.

(c) to (e): In the Foreign Trade Policy, there is no specific proposal to consider grant of financial assistance to cater to the needs of small scale exporters and there is no proposal to set up a consultative mechanism for interface between the banks and SSIs, under the Foreign Trade Policy.However,interest subvention which was allowed to SMEs during 2007-08 has been extended for the year 2008-09 also.